(d) The SMED Bill, 2005 does not discriminate against small scale manufacturers nor does it contain any provision to enable medium enterprises to take away any benefits or incentives given to small manufacturing enterprises.

(e) The Central Government does not think it necessary to review the concept of SME as proposed in the SMED Bill, 2005.

SME Bill

1030. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Bill which was ready in 2002, has not been passed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether raising the investment limit to Rs. 5 crore would help only 1 per cent of the SSIs as 98 per cent of SSIs are less than Rs. 10 lakh worth;

(d) the steps to be taken by Government for the benefit of SSIs with worth less than Rs. 10 lakh;

(e) the reasons for which the term 'tiny' is missing form the SME Bill;

(f) whether Government are not concerned with the problem of the tiny industries; and

(g) the plans of Government to help the unviable and sick SSIs?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Central Government approved the Small and Medium Enterprises Development (SMED), Bill 2005 on 4th May 2005 and the Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12th May 2005. There has been no delay in introducing the Bill in its present from.

(c) and (d) Classification of small manufacturing enterprises, including small scale industries, in the SMED Bill as enterprises with investment in plant and machinery not exceeding Rs. 5 crore aims at helping all small enterprises, irrespective of their investment. The Bill seeks to extend > benefits to all segments of small enterprises.

(e) Clause 7(6) of the SMED Bill, 2005 clearly provides that the Central Government may, while classifying enterprises, include in such classification micro of tiny enterprises or village enterprises, as part of small enterprises.

(f) and (g) Though the promotion and development of small scale industries, including tiny industry is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory (UTs) Administrations, the Central Government implements a number of schemes/programmes to complement the efforts of the States and UTs in this regard. These include, among others, schemes/programmes, which provide support in terms of enterpreneurship training, infrastructure, credit technology, marketing etc. for promotion and development of small scale industries. Besides, the Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks to identify potentially viable sick SSI units and take steps for their revival and rehabitation.

Sickness of SSIs

1031. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to check sickness of small scale industries at the initial stage instead of waiting for them turning sick and referring them to BIFR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to formulate any schemes under which marginally sick units or units having stage of turning sick could get assistance from Government agency at initial stage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Various measures have been taken to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick small scale industries (SSIs). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued detailed guidelines to banks in January 2002 on detection of sickness at an early stage and taking remedial measures, and for rehabilitation of sick SSI units identified as potentially viable, these guidelines include, *inter alia,* change in the definition of sich SSI units, norms for deciding their viability,